
◆ DMR LOBSTER NEWSLETTER ◆

Volume 11, Issue 2

Fall – October 2008

Commissioner's Statement on the Current Lobster Price Situation

On October 15th, DMR held a special meeting for the lobster industry at the Augusta Civic Center. The purpose of the meeting was to share information, and discuss what actions could be taken to react to the recent drastic reduction in the boat price of lobster. We assembled a panel representing a range of perspectives, including an economist, dealer, processor and fisherman. There were also representatives present from various financial and community development organizations. At the meeting, it was acknowledged that what is happening with Maine lobster is one piece of a larger global economic crisis. Therefore, there are no quick fixes that can have an immediate impact on price. DMR does not have the authority to take regulatory action based on market trends or price considerations. Instead, we are hoping that we can focus discussions on preventing similar circumstances from happening in the future, and on helping people access the resources that they may need to get through this coming winter.

Since then, we have scheduled a meeting of the Lobster Advisory Council, in order to continue discussions about how to make the lobster fishery less vulnerable to similar kinds of problems in the future. We have also scheduled a series of Zone Council meetings that the financial representatives will attend, to share information about possible options for individuals to manage their finances during this time.

I do appreciate how bad things have been over the past few weeks, and that it couldn't have happened at a worse time for lobstermen who needed to be able to make enough money this fall to get them through the year. Unfortunately, we have been impacted by a situation much larger than we can control. I believe that our ongoing discussions through the Lobster Advisory Council and the Zone Councils will yield ideas that will help us in the future. George D. Lapointe Commissioner

Lobster RED Board Grants

The Lobster Research, Education, and Development (RED) Board provides recommendations to DMR on projects that should be funded with the money that is generated through the sales of the lobster license plate. In their most recent Request for Proposals (RFP) the Board sought proposals on 3 research topics:

- Projects that evaluate the impact(s) of alternative baits on lobster health, public health, public perception, and/or the marine environment. They hoped that such research would be used to inform the development of a certification program to ensure a safe supply of lobster bait.
- Projects that evaluate substances in the marine environment having sub-lethal effects on lobsters (contaminants, pesticides, metals, organics, etc).
- Projects that identify stressors on lobsters throughout the supply chain, evaluate the effect of those stressors upon lobsters, and recommend tools and techniques that may be used to determine if a lobster has been subject to stressors. They hoped that this research would result in the development of new best practices that could be shared with the industry, and that lobsters that are handled appropriately could ultimately command a higher price in the marketplace.

At their July meeting, the RED Board gave their final recommendation for funding to two research proposals. These were:

- Tools and Techniques to Recognize Lobster Stressors throughout the Supply Chain and Development of Best Management Practices to Reduce or Eliminate Stress on Lobsters, Dr. Deborah Bouchard at University of Maine
- Determining the Health Risks of Lobster Bait to Marine Animals, Dr. Ian Bricknell at University of Maine

The RED Board also sought Education proposals that would provide opportunity for lobstermen to participate in a program that would supply information on basic business management. The Board recommended funding a proposal entitled, "The Business of Lobster: Financial Planning for Fishermen" submitted by Laura Taylor Singer of the Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI). This project seeks to increase awareness in the lobster industry of available resources on incorporation, money management, taxation, loans, insurance, retirement planning, estate planning, and innovative marketing strategies.

The first step in this project will be to develop the curriculum for this Program. Once the Program is developed, there will be outreach to the industry to make people aware of opportunities to participate.

If you have questions regarding the Lobster RED Board, please call Deirdre Gilbert at 624-6576.

Harvester Reporting Program

In 2007, DMR passed a regulation that requires ten percent of lobster/crab harvesters (including non-commercial harvesters) to report catch and effort information to DMR on a monthly basis. A new group of harvesters will be selected in late November 2008 to report their 2009 daily effort and landings data; the selected harvesters will be notified in early December.

Those that already fill out Federal Vessel Trip Reports (VTRs) for National Marine Fisheries Service will receive a letter indicating the blue copy of the VTR should be submitted to DMR in order to fulfill the lobster reporting requirement. Those that do not already fill out VTRs will receive a DMR logbook.

The DMR sincerely hopes that harvesters provide the most accurate data possible. These data will help fishery managers and industry advisers make informed decisions on the Maine lobster fishery in the future. These decisions can only be as good as the information provided to make them. The regulation can be accessed online at: <http://www.maine.gov/dmr/index.htm> (follow links to DMR regulations and choose Chapter 8.20N regulations). If you have any questions please contact Robert Watts at (207) 633-9412 or Rob.Watts@maine.gov.

2008 New Zone Entrants

As required by Maine's limited entry law (12 M.R.S.A. §6448), the Commissioner of Marine Resources has determined the number of new zone entrants authorized for each of the limited entry lobster zones. The number of new zone entrants authorized is based on a comparison of the number of licenses in that zone in 2006 and the number of people who did not renew their license in that zone in 2007. Exceptions to the limited entry process, such as medical and military waivers, are discounted from the totals for the purposes of calculating the number of new zone entrants as required by the limited entry law.

Zone A: 10 licenses awarded based on an exit ratio of (1:3)
 Zone B: 4 licenses awarded based on an exit ratio of (1:3)
 Zone D: 9 licenses awarded based on an exit ratio of (1:5)
 Zone E: 5 licenses awarded based on an exit ratio of (1:5)
 Zone F: 6 licenses awarded based on an exit ratio of (1:5)
 Zone G: 4 licenses awarded based on an exit ratio of (1:5)

Questions about the lobster licensing process should be addressed to:
Jessica McKay
License Eligibility Specialist
Department of Marine Resources
(207) 624-6549

United States Coast Guard approved Fishing Vessel Drill Conductor Course

Please Note: As the law currently states ALL Apprentices and Students must complete the United States Coast Guard approved Fishing Vessel Drill Conductor course:

- If you are over 18 years of age, you must complete the apprentice program requirements and document completion of the course prior to being placed on a waiting list.
- If you are under 18 years of age, you must complete the apprentice program requirements and document completion of the course and purchase your license after your 17th birthday but BEFORE your 18th birthday to avoid being placed on a waiting list.
- If you are over 70 years of age or older, you must complete the apprentice program requirements and document completion of the course prior to being issued a commercial lobster/crab license.
- If you are a Zone C Apprentice you must complete the apprentice program requirements and document completion of the course prior to being issued a commercial lobster/crab harvesting license.

Reminder about Log Sheets

- Log sheets must be signed by a Marine Patrol Officer and into the Department within 30 days of the 250th hour being logged.
- Make sure your sponsor initials EACH daily entry and signs your log sheets.
- Please do not document time prior to your license being issued each year as it will be rejected.
- You can only document 200 total gear hours.
- Only whole hours can be documented. ½ hours can not be documented, you must round down.

NOTE: Falsification and/or misrepresentation of logs sheets are taken very seriously and may result in license SUSPENSIONS – not only for the Apprentice but for the Sponsor as well. With any questions or concerns regarding the apprentice program please contact Jessica McKay at 207-624-6549.

Licensing Tidbits

According to 12 MRSA, Section 6301, General Provisions, when application information concerning any person, establishment or vehicle named in a license or certificate changes, the holder shall immediately notify the commissioner in writing within 3 business days or the license/certificate shall become void.

The license requiring changes needs to be sent in along with the written request. When the change is the boat listed on the license, one must also send in a copy of the boat registration or documentation showing boat ownership due to, Section 6431E, Vessel Limitation. If the boat registration or documentation is listed to two people, a certificate of owner/operator form must be completed and notarized by the license holder/boat owner. This form may be obtained from the licensing unit by calling 207-624-6550 or online at www.maine.gov/dmr/license/index.htm. If the boat is in a corporation name, a copy of the corporation papers showing the fisherman as the primary shareholder is needed in addition to the certificate of owner operator and copy of registration/documentation. When a federal permit is involved, a copy of the federal permit is needed, too. It is suggested that when a fisherman is required to send in a license for changes, he should call his local officer to make the officer aware of the change and that the license has been sent in for the change.

A lobsterman may upgrade the class of his current lobster license during the year. In order to make this change, the lobsterman needs to send in a simple written request, the actual lobster license and the license fee. The license fee is the difference of the two license fees. For example, if going from a Class I (\$145.00) to a Class II (\$291.00), the fee is \$146.00. The check or money order should be payable to Maine State Treasurer.

If a license is lost or destroyed, a duplicate may be obtained from this office at a cost of \$5.00. A written request is needed and a check or money order payable to Maine State Treasurer.

Any license changes or requests should be mailed to: Department of Marine Resources, Licensing, 21 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333.

When completing the lobster and crab application form for a commercial lobster license, please remember that if you list a boat different than the one listed in the previous year, or had a temporary registration, you must send a copy of the boat registration or documentation. If you do not send in the necessary paperwork, the application and payment will be returned to you.

If one is over the limit for tags on the vessel, one must explain why on the application. An example would be double tagging or perhaps some of the tags would be unregistered. This applies to student applications, as well. Frequently applications are returned because the boat appears to be over the limit. This can be eliminated by explaining the tag scenario on the application.

When apprentice and student license holders apply for their licenses, the sponsor(s) listed on their applications must be licensed for the current year. If the sponsor is not currently licensed, the apprentice/student application will be returned to the applicant. The applicant may reapply once the sponsor is licensed.

Any lobsterman ordering trap tags needs to allow a minimum of three to five weeks from the time the tags are ordered to delivery.

Beginning license year 2009, DMR will no longer issue lobster trap replacement tags (maximum of 10%) automatically upon license renewal.

ATTENTION: TENDER SAFETY COURSE OFFERED - Individuals interested in purchasing a Tending License, who do not already hold a Commercial Tending License, MUST take this course. All Temporary Tending Licenses will be VOID after November 20th. The Dive Tending Safety Course will be offered on November 20th from 7:30 to 4:30 at the University of Maine Hutchinson Center, 80 Belmont Avenue (Route 3), Belfast, Maine. For Registration information, please contact Peggy Fleury at the Southern Maine Community College, 2 Fort Road, South Portland, ME 04106 – Phone: 207-751-5758.

Maine Marine Animal Reporting

There have been high reports in the New England area of live leatherback sea turtles this year compared to recent years. There have also been elevated reports of dead, stranded, and injured sea turtles as well. NOAA Fisheries is asking us to keep a look out for sea turtles in Maine. Please call the Maine Marine Animal Reporting Hotline at 1-800-532-9551 to report a marine sea turtle.

Sinking Groundline will be Required by April 5, 2009 Fishing Outside the Exemption Line

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has approved a final rule which will amend the regulations implementing the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan (ALWTRP). This final rule would provide an additional six months (through April 5, 2009) for trap/pot fishermen along the Atlantic east coast to comply with the broad-based sinking groundline requirement OUTSIDE THE EXEMPTION LINE.

In addition, this rule will delete the "neutrally buoyant line" **term and definition** from the regulations, so that only the "sinking line" term and definition would remain. In the October 5, 2007 final rule, NMFS included both the terms "sinking" and "neutrally buoyant" line, with identical definitions for each, in an attempt to include familiar industry terms and assist in the understanding of the regulations.

However, industry feedback since the final rule was published indicates that using two terms has led to confusion and resulted in some fishermen not understanding what type of line is required for the groundline.

Therefore, neutrally buoyant line **is still permitted**; however, for regulation purposes, it will be defined and referred to as sinking line.

NOTE: Neutrally buoyant line **is not** the low-profile rope that has been distributed by DMR as experimental rope.

As of April 5, 2009, the experimental low-profile rope MAY NOT BE USED OUTSIDE THE EXEMPTION LINE.

DAM Program Temporarily Reinstated

With the 6-month delay in the implementation of the sinking groundline requirement, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has temporarily reinstated the Dynamic Area Management (DAM) Program under the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan. If a DAM zone is triggered, lobstermen are required to fish sinking groundline in that area while the DAM is in effect, or remove your gear from the area. All buoy lines must be made of either sinking (or neutrally buoyant line), except the bottom portion of the line, which may be a section of floating line not to exceed one-third the overall length of the buoy line. The judge has ordered these measures effective immediately through April 4, 2009, and will expire at this time when the sinking groundline requirement is effective on April 5, 2009.

*Federal Whale Rule Update***Lobster and Other Trap/Pot Gear Modification Requirements**

The following Universal Requirements apply to ALL lobster gear in both State and Federal waters.

The following Universal Requirements also apply to all other trap/pot gear (including but not limited to all crab species, hagfish, finfish, whelk and shrimp) outside the State Waters Exemption Line and in Federal Waters.

- (a) No buoy line floating at the surface;
 - (b) No wet storage of gear over 30 days; and
 - (c) Fishermen are encouraged, but not required, to maintain knot-free buoy lines.
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Inside the Exemption Line – Lobster Gear Only – Must comply with one of the following options.

- (a) Option 1: All buoys must be attached to the buoy line with a weak link having a breaking strength no greater than 600 pounds (272.4 kg). Weak links may include swivels, plastic weak links, rope of the appropriate breaking strength, hog rings, rope stapled to a buoy stick, or devices approved in writing by the NOAA Fisheries Assistant Administrator (See contact information in Chapter 75.01(A)(3)). In addition, the weak link must be designed so that the bitter end of the buoy line is clean and free of knots when the weak link breaks; or
 - (b) Option 2: All buoy lines must be made entirely of sinking and/or neutrally buoyant line; or
 - (c) Option 3: All groundlines must be made entirely of sinking and/or neutrally buoyant line.
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State Waters Outside the Exemption Line AND in Federal Waters – Lobster & all other trap/pot gear

All persons who fish lobster gear and trap/pot gear (including but not limited to all crab species, hagfish, finfish, whelk and shrimp) in State Waters Outside the Exemption Line and in Federal Waters shall comply with each of the following ALWTRP requirements:

- (a) All buoys, floatation and/or weighted devices must be attached to the buoy line with a weak link having a breaking strength no greater than 600 pounds (272.4 kg). Weak links may include swivels, plastic weak links, rope of the appropriate breaking strength, hog rings, rope stapled to a buoy stick, or devices approved in writing by the NOAA Fisheries Assistant Administrator (See contact information in Chapter 75.01(A)(3)). In addition, the weak link must be designed so that the bitter end of the buoy line is clean and free of knots when the weak link breaks plus each weak link must be installed as close to the buoy, floatation and/or weighted device as possible. Weak links must be designed in such a way that the bitter end of the buoy line is clean and free of any knots when the weak link breaks. Effective April 5, 2008
 - (b) Buoy lines must be marked with a red, 4-inch mark midway on the buoy line. Effective April 5, 2008 (already required in Federal waters)
 - (c) All trap/pot surface buoys (including but not limited to all crab species, hagfish, finfish, whelk and shrimp) must be clearly marked with the owner's DMR License Number. Effective April 5, 2008
 - (d) Sinking and/or neutrally buoyant groundline required. The attachment of buoys, toggles or other floatation devices is prohibited on groundlines. Effective April 5, 2009
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Federal Waters Only – Lobster & all other trap/pot gear

Must comply with all provisions OUTSIDE the State Waters Exemption Line (see a-d above) AND

- (a) Multiple traps only – no single traps allowed; trawls of 5 or fewer traps must have only one buoy line.
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Please note: In any area, there is no percentage requirement for endline composition – as long as there is no buoy line floating at the surface.

Marine Patrol News

In February 2008 Marine Patrol, along with representatives from NOAA, the USCG and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in Canada met to discuss possible resolutions to conflicts in the Disputed or Grey Zone. Emphasis was on Maine and Canadian fishermen adopting similar fishing practices that both sides felt would be a great start to coexisting in this controversial area. Another meeting is in the planning stages that will include representation from the fishing communities to discuss possible changes in the way gear is marked, set, time of day fished and possibly the number of traps fished.

In March 2008 Marine Patrol Officers documented two violations for failure to double tag in lobster zones F & G. Zone F fishermen object to this requirement and made that very clear to the Bureau of Marine Patrol at the Zone F meeting that was held on March 12th in Yarmouth.

At the Annual Maine Fishermen's Forum held in Rockland in March 2008, Marine Patrol Officer Rob Beal was awarded the Maine Lobstermen's Association Officer of the Year Award. Officer Beal has been with the Department for over 2 years. He has been extremely effective within his patrol area especially in his efforts geared toward the lobster industry.

Christopher Hilton was hired as a Seasonal Marine Patrol Officer on June 4, 2007 to primarily patrol the Striped Bass Fisheries of the Kennebec River and its surrounding tributaries. Chris joined patrol after graduating Unity College with a degree in Conservation Law Enforcement. He was previously employed by Old Orchard Police Department as a Reserve Patrol Officer. Chris graduated from the 14th Basic Law Enforcement Training Program at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy on May 23rd of this year. A native of Yarmouth, Chris presently resides in Durham.

In July 2008 Officers in the mid- coast region were busy collecting untagged lobster traps. All traps in the water were to be tagged by July 1st this season; however several fishermen still had gear in the water without tags. Several traps were confiscated and were investigated by local officers.

August 2008, Officers in the Southern portion of the Division were very busy working complaints of untagged lobster gear and helping local NOAA Federal Agents with investigations. One fisherman was found to be fishing much of his gear in Federal Waters without a Federal Permit to do so. In addition many of the traps were not tagged as required by law. Twenty-four traps were seized. Another fisherman was found to have left much of his offshore gear in all spring and summer without tending it as required by law. These traps were also untagged. Thirty-nine traps were seized and the fisherman was told to get the rest of the gear in as he had not yet ordered tags for 2008.

Marine Patrol would again like to remind fishermen of the 30 day limit on wet storage of gear. Please assist Patrol with problems in your area by notifying your local officer or calling the appropriate Division office. The sooner Patrol is aware of a problem the sooner we will be able to put a case together. Don't expect that Patrol will know of all the situations where there is gear being left unattended for long periods of time.

REPLACEMENT TAG POLICY – October 2008

1. DMR will develop a form (an affidavit, similar to what is used currently) that will be for the use of Officers in the field on an as-needed basis with fishermen who need replacement tags
2. The form will include, at a minimum: License holder name, DOB and license #, cause of tag loss including day and location and a place for the MPO to sign and date the affidavit
3. The license holder will then be responsible for submitting the form to Licensing in Hallowell; complete with whatever payment is required
4. Licensing will be responsible for processing and tracking replacement tag orders
5. Patrol will be responsible for the affidavits up until the point they are signed. Patrol will not handle replacement tags or the payment for them
6. Patrol will continue to handle 'exchange' tags
7. Existing "catastrophic loss" policy will remain

Marine Patrol Violations Report

January through June 2008

Disclaimer: The Department of Marine Resources makes every effort to provide accurate and complete information, and any inconsistencies are not intentional on the part of the Department and will be corrected.

Last Name	First Name	Town	Viol Description	Adjud Date	Fine	Adjud Decision Code	Susp
ADAMAITIS	CHRISTOPHER	PORTSMOUTH	POSSESSION OF FOUR V-NOTCHED LOBSTERS	17-Apr-2008	250.00	G	
ADAMAITIS	CHRISTOPHER	PORTSMOUTH	POSSESSION OF FOUR UNDERSIZED LOBSTERS	17-Apr-2008	650.00	G	
ALLEY	MYRON	STEBEN	WET STORAGE OF LOBSTER GEAR IN EXCESS OF 30 DAYS	05-May-2008	250.00	G	
ANDERSON	BRADLEY	SPRUCE HEAD	POSSESSION OF 12 SHORT LOBSTERS	14-Jan-2008	525.00	G	
ANDERSON	ROBERT	SEDGWICK	VIOLATION OF WET STORAGE OF LOBSTER GEAR (IN EXCESS OF 30 DAYS)	06-May-2008	NULL	DEF	
BALLOU	RONALD	NEW HARBOR	POSSESSION OF ONE OVERSIZE LOBSTER	16-Jan-2008	75.00	G	
BARTER	STANLEY	BOOTHBAY	WET STORAGE OF LOBSTER GEAR FOR MORE THAN THIRTY DAYS	05-Jun-2008	250.00	G	
BEAUCAGE	ALAN	ALNA	MOLESTING LOBSTER GEAR (NINE COUNTS)	08-May-2008	900.00	DEF	Y
BENNER	SCOTT	BRISTOL	NOT TENDING TRAPS WITHIN THIRTY DAYS (WET STORAGE)	27-Feb-2008	250.00	G	
BLANCHETTE	CHRISTOPHER	PROSPECT HARBOR	WET STORAGE OF LOBSTER GEAR	06-May-2008	250.00	G	
BROWN	GARRETT	DEER ISLE	VIOLATION OF WET STORAGE OF LOBSTER GEAR IN EXCESS OF 30 DAYS	06-May-2008	250.00	G	
BUNKER	JONATHAN	SOUTHWEST HBR	LOBSTER FISHING WITHOUT CURRENT LOBSTER/CRAB LICENSE	24-Mar-2008	277.50	G	
BUNKER	WESLEY	ELLSWORTH	FISHING BAIT WITH HAIR ON IT	03-May-2008	100.00	G	
BURGESS	KEVIN	STONINGTON	FISHING LOBSTER TRAPS WITH NO LEGAL BIODEGRADABLE ESCAPE VENTS (TO WIT:1865 1 TRAP)	14-Mar-2008	250.00	G	
BURGESS	SAMUEL	SEBASCO ESTATES	FAILURE TO TEND LOBSTER TRAPS WITHIN THIRTY DAYS	23-Apr-2008	150.00	G	
BURNHAM	HERBERT	SOUTHPORT	WET STORAGE OF LOBSTER GEAR FOR MORE THAN THIRTY DAYS	30-Apr-2008	250.00	DEF	
CAMPBELL	JAMES	BATH	POSSESSION OF FIVE LOBSTERS TAKEN BY UNCONVENTIONAL METHODS - (DIVING)	06-Mar-2008	550.00	G	Y
CARTER	TONY	WALDOBORO	NOT TENDING LOBSTER GEAR EVERY THIRTY DAYS	30-Jan-2008	500.00	DEF	
CHIPMAN	BRIAN	BIRCH HARBOR	POSSESSION OF THREE SHORT LOBSTERS	06-May-2008	125.00	G	
COFFIN	TOM	SOUTH FREEPORT	FISHING 72 LOBSTER TRAPS IN ZONE G WITHOUT CURRENT FIG TRAP TAGS	20-May-2008	1000.00	G	
COLBETH	CAMERON	SWANS ISLAND	WET STORAGE OF LOBSTER GEAR BEYOND 30 DAYS	03-Jun-2008	250.00	G	
COX	REBEKAH	MACHIAS	WET STORAGE OF LOBSTER GEAR FOR MORE THAN 30 DAYS	02-Jun-2008	250.00	G	
CRAWFORD	WILLIAM	KITTERY	REGISTRANT NOT ON BOARD	01-May-2008	610.00	G	Y
DANIELS	RYAN	BATH	POSSESSION OF FIVE LOBSTERS TAKEN BY UNCONVENTIONAL METHODS	06-Mar-2008	550.00	G	
DARIS	ALBERT	MILBRIDGE	WET STORAGE OF LOBSTER GEAR IN EXCESS OF 30 DAYS	16-Mar-2008	130.00	G	
DRAKE	DONALD	THOMASTON	WET STORAGE OF LOBSTER GEAR	12-May-2008	250.00	G	
EATON	MITCHELL	STONINGTON	WET STORAGE OF LOBSTER GEAR OVER 30 DAYS	14-Apr-2008	250.00	G	
ERB	RYAN	KENNEBUNKPORT	MOLESTING LOBSTER GEAR	10-Jan-2008	1500.00	G	Y
FELTNER	WILLIAM	LUBEC	POSSESSION OF THREE SHORT LOBSTERS	26-Mar-2008	125.00	G	
FILES	F ROSS	VERONA ISLAND	MISREPRESENTATION OF APPRENTICE LOG SHEETS	29-Jan-2008	310.00	G	Y
FITZPATRICK	JOSHUA	BRISTOL	WET STORAGE - FAILURE TO TEND LOBSTER TRAPS ONCE EVERY THIRTY DAYS	28-May-2008	250.00	DEF	
GASPAR	WALKER	DEER ISLE	POSSESSION OF 25 SHORT LOBSTERS	14-Mar-2008	775.00	G	Y
GILLEY	GLENN	SOUTHWEST HBR	10 V-NOTCHED LOBSTERS	08-Feb-2008	550.00	G	
GILLEY	GLENN	SOUTHWEST HBR	POSSESSION OF 61 SHORT LOBSTERS	08-Feb-2008	2975.00	G	Y
GRANT	NATHANIEL	NORTH YARMOUTH	MOLESTING LOBSTER GEAR	02-Jun-2008	250.00	G	Y
GRAVES	RYAN	NORTHEAST HBR	LOBSTER TRAPS WIHTOUT A PROPER BIODEGRADABLE ESCAPE PANEL	02-Jun-2008	100.00	G	
GRAVES	RYAN	NORTHEAST HBR	FISHING LOBSTER TRAPS WITH MORE THAN THREE TRAPS ON A TRAWL LINE (OFF HANCOCK COUNTY)	02-Jun-2008	200.00	G	
HAMMOND	DANA	NEW HARBOR	POSSESSION OF LOBSTERS ON A DRAGGER - TRAWLING/NETTING FOR LOBSTER	23-May-2008	200.00	G	
HANLEY	PATRICK	BASS HARBOR	LOBSTER FISHING WITHOUT A CLASS 1 LOBSTER LICENSE	03-Apr-2008	277.50	G	
HARVEY	JOHN	WALDOBORO	POSSESSION OF SIX UNDERSIZED LOBSTERS	21-Feb-2008	200.00	G	
HARVEY	JOHN	WALDOBORO	FISHING SIX UNTAGGED TRAPS	21-Feb-2008	200.00	G	
HAYCOCK	CHARLES	PROSPECT HARBOR	WET STORAGE OF LOBSTER TRAPS	01-May-2008	250.00	G	
HILDINGS	DAVID	VINALHAVEN	FISHING WITHOUT LOBSTER/CRAP CLASS III	14-Jan-2008	500.00	G	
HOLMES	JONATHAN	HANCOCK	WET STORAGE OF LOBSTER GEAR EXCEEDING 30 DAYS	08-Apr-2008	310.00	G	
JACOBSON	ROBERT	BOOTHBAY HARBOR	WET STORAGE OF LOBSTER GEAR FOR MORE THAN THIRTY DAYS	26-Mar-2008	250.00	G	

Marine Patrol Violations Report (Continued)
January through June 2008

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Last Name	First Name	Town	Viol Description	Adjud Date	Fine	Adjud Decision Code	Susp
JORDAN	LARRY	ELLSWORTH	WET STORAGE OF LOBSTER GEAR EXCEEDING 30 DAYS	08-Apr-2008	300.00	G	
JOYCE	GRANT	SWANS ISLAND	STORAGE OF LOBSTER GEAR OVER 30 DAYS	03-Jun-2008	250.00	G	
KELLEY	JOSEPH	JEFFERSON	MOLESTING LOBSTER GEAR	26-Mar-2008	300.00	G	Y
KELSEY	BENJAMIN	LITCHFIELD	NOT TENDING LOBSTER TRAPS WITHIN THIRTY DAYS	26-Mar-2008	1000.00	DEF	
KENNEY	BRUCE	KITTERY POINT	REGISTRANT NOT ON BOARD	01-May-2008	610.00	G	Y
KIMBALL	ROBERT	CAMDEN	WET STORAGE OF LOBSTER GEAR GREATER THAN 30 DAYS	14-Apr-2008	250.00	G	
LAIBACH	JOSEF	GORHAM	FISHING UNTAGGED LOBSTER TRAPS - TO WIT: 40 TRAP TRAWL	22-Jan-2008	1000.00	G	Y
LEMOINE	CARL	SWANS ISLAND	STORAGE OF LOBSTER GEAR FOR BEYOND 30 DAYS	03-Jun-2008	250.00	G	
MACGREGOR	RONALD	GOULDSBORO	FISHING LC TRAPS WITHOUT A CURRENT 2007 TRAP TAG (6 TRAPS).	11-Jan-2008	NULL	NG	
MAHONEN	DAVID	SOUTH THOMASTON	SELLING LOBSTERS WITHOUT A CLASS 1 LICENSE	29-May-2008	250.00	G	
MAHONEN	DAVID	SOUTH THOMASTON	MOLESTING LOBSTER GEAR	29-May-2008	500.00	G	Y
MALDOVAN	MARC	WISCASSET	WET STORAGE OF LOBSTER TRAPS FOR MORE THAN THIRTY DAYS	29-Apr-2008	250.00	G	
MARTIN	KURT	NEW HARBOR	EIGHTEEN UNDERSIZED LOBSTERS	30-Jan-2008	750.00	G	Y
MAYS	ANDREW	SOUTHWEST HBR	WET STORAGE OF GEAR OVER 30 DAYS	06-May-2008	250.00	G	
MCMAHAN	WILLIAM	GEORGETOWN	WET STORAGE OF LOBSTER GEAR (TRAPS) FOR MORE THAN THIRTY DAYS	10-Apr-2008	250.00	G	
MURPHY	PETER	FRIENDSHIP	POSSESSION (SELLING) EIGHT V-NOTCHED, MUTILATED LOBSTERS	14-Jan-2008	450.00	G	
NICKLES	CHARLES	OWLS HEAD	POSSESSION OF 5 V-NOTCHED FEMALE LOBSTERS	11-Feb-2008	300.00	G	
NICODEMUS	TODD	ORLAND	MISREPRESENTATION OF APPRENTICE LOG SHEETS	05-Feb-2008	310.00	G	Y
O'BRIEN	JAMES	NOBLEBORO	NO LOBSTER LICENSE	28-May-2008	250.00	G	
PAPPIANNE	LEE	DEER ISLE	VIOLATION OF WET STORAGE OF LOBSTER GEAR (IN EXCESS OF 30 DAYS)	16-May-2008	250.00	G	
PINKHAM	BRANDON	BAR HARBOR	POSSESSION OF 10 V-NOTCHED LOBSTER	08-Feb-2008	550.00	G	Y
PINKHAM	BRANDON	BAR HARBOR	POSSESSION 61 SHORT LOBSTERS	08-Feb-2008	150.00	G	Y
PINKHAM	IRA	GEORGETOWN	POSSESSION OF NINE V-NOTCHED/MUTILATED FEMALE LOBSTERS	08-Jan-2008	500.00	G	
PINKHAM	JAMIE	GEORGETOWN	WET STORAGE OF LOBSTER TRAPS FOR MORE THAN THIRTY DAYS	10-Apr-2008	250.00	G	
PIPER	MARK	HANCOCK	POSSESSION OF ONE SHORT LOBSTER	04-Jan-2008	75.00	G	
POOLE	JAMES	VINALHAVEN	POSSESSION OF ONE OVERSIZE LOBSTER	14-Jan-2008	75.00	G	
POTTLE	DAVID	PERRY	POSSESSION OF 8 UNTAGGED LOBSTER TRAPS	20-Feb-2008	130.00	G	
PURINGTON	WADE	MILBRIDGE	WET STORAGE OF LOBSTER GEAR IN EXCESS OF 30 DAYS	17-Mar-2008	130.00	G	
RACKLIFF	LANNY	ROCKLAND	WET STORAGE OF LOBSTER TRAPS GREATER THAN 30 DAYS	29-May-2008	150.00	G	
RICH	TODD	LONG ISLAND	MOLESTING LOBSTER GEAR	24-Mar-2008	500.00	DEF	Y
RICH	TODD	LONG ISLAND	LOBSTER TRAP REMOVAL	04-Apr-2008	100.00	DEF	
ROBINSON	DONALD	HARRINGTON	WET STORAGE OF LOBSTER GEAR BEYOND 30 DAYS	02-May-2008	250.00	G	
ROSS	WAYNE	STONINGTON	VIOLATION OF WET STORAGE OF LOBSTER GEAR (IN EXCESS OF 30 DAYS)	06-May-2008	NULL	DEF	
SAVOIE	DALE	GEORGETOWN	WET STORAGE OF LOBSTER TRAPS FOR MORE THAN THIRTY DAYS	14-Apr-2008	250.00	G	
SCOTT	AVERY	BIRCH HARBOR	WET STORAGE OF LOBSTER TRAPS	05-May-2008	250.00	G	
SMITH	CHRISTOPHER	MONHEGAN ISLAND	FISHING SIX UNTAGGED TRAPS IN MONHEGAN CONSERVATION ZONE	18-Feb-2008	100.00	G	
SOULE	TUCKER	KENNEBUNKPORT	TRAP MOLESTING	20-May-2008	100.00	FILE	
STINSON	ISAAC	SWANS ISLAND	STORAGE OF LOBSTER GEAR BEYOND 30 DAYS	03-May-2008	310.00	G	
STOCKBRIDGE	DALE	SWANS ISLAND	POSSESSION ON 6 MUTILATED/V-NOTCHED LOBSTERS	05-Feb-2008	350.00	G	
STOCKBRIDGE	DALE	SWANS ISLAND	WET STORAGE OF LOBSTER GEAR BEYOND 30 DAYS	03-May-2008	310.00	G	
STROUT	TIMOTHY	WINDHAM	FISHING UNTAGGED LOBSTER TRAPS - TO WIT: FOUR TRAPS	22-Apr-2008	100.00	G	
SWAIN	JOEL	TENANTS HARBOR	POSSESSION OF TWO OVERSIZED LOBSTER	11-Feb-2008	100.00	G	
TEMPLE	FREDERICK	BIRCH HARBOR	WET STORGAE OF LOBSTER TRAPS	05-May-2008	250.00	G	
TEMPLE	JOHN	BIRCH HARBOR	HAULING LC TRAPS WITH VESSEL OTHER THAN NAMED VESSEL	08-Feb-2008	100.00	G	
THOMPSON	JUSTIN	PORT CLYDE	POSSESSION OF TWELVE (12) V-NOTCHED/MUTILATED LOBSTERS.	04-Feb-2008	650.00	G	
TRUNDY	DANIEL	STONINGTON	POSSESSION OF ONE MUTILATED LOBSTER (MUTILATION TO OBSTRUCT ACCURATE MEASUREMENT)	07-May-2008	100.00	G	

Marine Patrol Violations Report (Continued)
January through June 2008

Disclaimer: The Department of Marine Resources makes every effort to provide accurate and complete information, and any inconsistencies are not intentional on the part of the Department and will be corrected.

Last Name	First Name	Town	Viol Description	Adjud Date	Fine	Adjud Decision Code	Susp
TURNER	GARY	SWANS ISLAND	WET STORAGE OF LOBSTER GEAR OVER 30 DAYS	03-May-2008	310.00	G	
TURNER	ROBERT	DEER ISLE	POSSESSION OF 25 SHORT LOBSTERS	14-Mar-2008	775.00	G	Y
VAN SLUYS	HENRI	SORRENTO	POSSESSION OF ONE V-NOTCHED FEMALE LOBSTER	11-Jan-2008	100.00	G	
VARIAN	NEWBOLD	PHIPPSBURG	POSSESSION OF ONE EGG-BEARING FEMALE LOBSTER	17-Mar-2008	150.00	G	
WALLACE	CLINTON	PHIPPSBURG	HAULING LOBSTER TRAPS FROM AN UNDECLARED VESSEL	10-Jun-2008	200.00	G	
WARD	DUANE	LYMAN	MOLESTING LOBSTER GEAR	10-Jan-2008	1500.00	G	Y
WEEKS	DALE	HARPSWELL	POSSESSION OF ONE MUTILATED FEMALE LOBSTER (BOTH EYE SOCKETS)	09-Apr-2008	75.00	G	
WEST	THOMAS	STEUBEN	WET STORAGE OF LOBSTER GEAR IN EXCESS OF 30 DAYS	07-Apr-2008	130.00	G	
WILLETTE	ROB	WATERVILLE	POSSESSION OF ONE UNDERSIZED LOBSTER	08-Jan-2008	75.00	G	
WILLIAMS	JOHN	STONINGTON	POSSESSION OF ONE OVERSIZE LOBSTER	27-Mar-2008	100.00	G	
WOUTERS	LEONARD	FRANKLIN	POSSESSION OF ONE SHORT LOBSTER	25-Jun-2008	75.00	G	

Herring Update - September 28, 2008

Notice to Atlantic Herring Fishery: Atlantic Sea Herring Management Plan, Area 1A Effort Reduction Provisions, October - November 2008

Summary:

During a Days Out meeting in Durham NH on September 24th, 2008, Commissioners from the states of Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts agreed to adjust the days out for the Atlantic Herring fishery in Area 1A.

Effective September 28th, 2008:

- Atlantic herring may be landed on October 1st, 8th, 15th, 21st, 22nd, 28th and 29th from 12:01 AM – 11:59 PM.
- Atlantic herring may be landed on November 4th, 5th, 11th and 12th: from 12:01 AM – 11:59 PM and every Tuesday and Wednesday, thereafter until the end of the calendar year.
- It will be unlawful to land Atlantic herring caught from Area 1A during any other dates and times. This action is for the rest of the calendar year until changed by an additional notice.

Exceptions:

- Any vessel may land herring as an incidental catch caught in ASMFC Management Area 1A in any Maine port, as long as such herring do not comprise more than 2,000 pounds per trip and such herring does not constitute more than 10% of the catch by weight.
- Fixed gear fisherman (weirs and stop seines) south of a line drawn from Spruce Point, (44 36.2' and 67 16.8') Cross Island, Cutler due east magnetic to the international boundary with Canada; MAY NOT close off a body of water on days designated as a "day out" of the fishery. Fixed gear fishermen, may remove and land herring from fixed gear on the days designated as a "day out" of the fishery.
- Fixed gear (weirs and stop seine) catches in waters north of a line drawn from Spruce Point, (44 36.2' and 67 16.8') Cross Island, Cutler, due east magnetic to the international boundary with Canada are exempted from the above restrictions.
- Fixed gear fishermen are reminded that they must comply with area spawning regulations.

For more details, please contact your local Marine Patrol Division Headquarters (Div I 633-9595, Div II 667-3373) or your local marine patrol officer.

Lobstermen Elect Zone Council Reps

Congratulations! Results from the Annual Election for district representatives on the lobster zone councils are in. The future of the lobster fishery is dependent upon the active collaboration of harvesters, scientists and managers. Many thanks to those harvesters who are willing to give their time as council members in order to help manage this important fishery. The following are the successful candidates:

**Zone A
District**

- 1 John Drouin ('09)
 - 1 Kenneth Dennison ('10)
 - 2 Robert Ingalls ('10)
 - 3 **Ernest Kelley, Sr. ('11)**
 - 4 Robert Alley ('10)
 - 5 Oscar Look, Jr. ('09)
 - 6 **Eric Beal ('10)**
 - 7 **Dennis Sargent, Sr. ('11)**
 - 8 Christopher Urquhart ('09)
- Rep. Anne Perry – Calais

**Zone B
District**

- 1 **Frank "Buddy" Trundy, Jr. ('11)**
 - 2 Jon Carter ('10)
 - 3 **Eric Jones ('11)**
 - 4 James Bracy ('10)
 - 4 John Stanley ('09)
 - 5 Christopher Goodwin ('09)
 - 5 Scott Harper ('10)
 - 6 Kenneth Lemoine, Jr. ('09)
 - 7 Wyatt Beal ('10)
- Rep. Rob Eaton – Sullivan

**Zone C
District**

- 1 John Candage ('09)
 - 1 Michael Sherman ('10)
 - 2 Paul Venno ('09)
 - 3 Frank Gotwals ('10)
 - 4 Robert Ray ('09)
 - 5 **Hilton Turner ('11)**
 - 6 Ryan Haskell ('10)
 - 7 **Leland Osgood ('11)**
 - 7 **Earl Hamilton ('11)**
 - 8 Daniel MacDonald ('10)
 - 9 **Vance Bunker ('11)**
- Rep. Hannah Pingree – North Haven

**Zone D
District**

- 1 Michael Dawson ('10)
 - 2 Gilbert Collamore, Sr. ('09)
 - 2 David Reed ('10)
 - 3 James Wotton ('09)
 - 3 Kevin Benner ('10)
 - 4 **Daniel Staples ('11)**
 - 5 Gerald Cushman ('10)
 - 6 **Robert Morris ('11)**
 - 7 Jason Hooper ('09)
 - 7 **Douglas McLennan ('11)**
 - 8 **Kevin Glover ('11)**
 - 9 Joseph Bates ('10)
 - 10 **Michael Hutchings ('11)**
 - 11 **Wayne Canning ('11)**
 - 12 **Ryan Post ('11)**
- Rep. Edward Mazurek

**Zone E
District**

- 1 James Lang ('10)
 - 1 **Ira Pinkham ('11)**
 - 2 **John Tarbox ('11)**
 - 3 Tyler Hodgdon ('09)
 - 4 Gary Snowman ('09)
 - 4 Guy Randlett ('09)
 - 5 Larry Knapp ('10)
 - 5 **Douglas Carter ('11)**
 - 6 Fred Farnham ('10)
 - 7 Robert Royall ('09)
 - 8 Richard Tonry ('10)
 - 9 John Seiders ('09)
 - 10 Mark Cheney ('09)
- Sen. Paula Benoit

**Zone F
District**

- 1 Gregg Whitton ('09)
 - 1 Jeffery Adams ('10)
 - 2 **David Johnson ('11)**
 - 3 **Jeff Putnam ('11)**
 - 4 **Eric Anderson ('11)**
 - 5 **Willis Spear ('11)**
 - 6 Donald Ulrickson ('10)
 - 6 David Merryman ('09)
 - 7 Glenn Rodgers ('09)
 - 7 Clayton Whidden ('09)
 - 8 **Gary Hawkes ('11)**
 - 9 Thomas Bennett ('10)
 - 9 Charles Rommel ('10)
- Rep. Leila Percy

**Zone G
District**

- 1 **Harold Place ('11)**
 - 2 **Steven Taylor ('11)**
 - 3 Bradford Parady ('09)
 - 4 Matthew Nowell ('11)
 - 4 Nathaniel Marshall ('10)
 - 5 Zachary Donnell ('10)
 - 6 Laurin Brooks ('10)
 - 7 **Peter Eaton ('08 pending)**
 - 7 Norman Nunan, Jr. ('09)
 - 8 Robert LaFlamme ('09)
 - 9 James Henderson ('09)
 - 10 David Provencher ('09)
 - 11 Jodie Jordan ('10)
- Sen. Nancy Sullivan

Lobster Science Program

A Regional Ventless Trap Program (RVTP) has been funded through grants from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the National Marine Fisheries Service to assess lobster abundance and distribution in nearshore waters. The Maine Ventless Trap Survey is part of the Regional Ventless Trap Program that includes all states from Maine down to New York. The RVTP is currently in its third year of operation.

In Maine, the 2008 Ventless Trap Survey collaborated with 9 commercial fishing partners that were responsible for sampling a total of 139 sites (Figure 1) and 834 traps, an increase of 64 sites over the initial 2006 survey. The 2008 Ventless Trap Survey began in June 2008 and finished at the end of August.

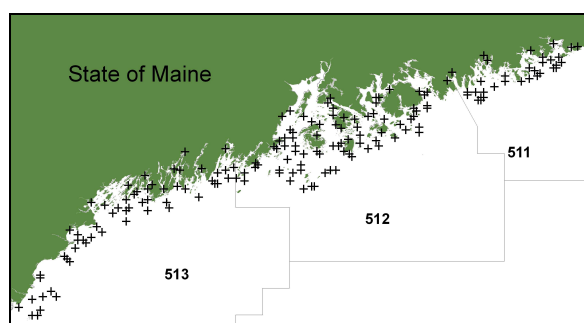


Figure 1: A plot of the 139 survey stations for the 2008 Ventless Trap Survey. Additional sites were added to statistical areas 512 and 513 only.

During the month of September, data collected during the 2008 survey will be entered into the computer and added to the ventless trap survey database for analysis. Preliminary data is available for the month of June 2008 at this time.

A comparison of catch rates during the month of June over the last three years show fluctuations in all three statistical areas. Stat area 511 has decreased each year of the survey. The catch rates for stat area 512 and 513 change yearly, with 512 having the higher catch rates in 2008 and 513 in 2007.

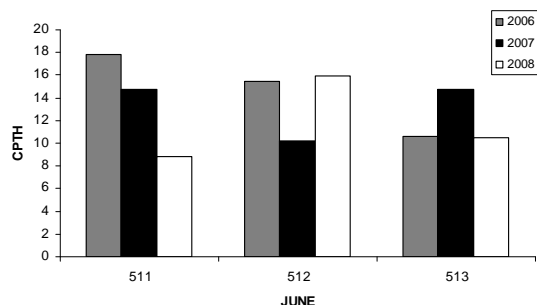


Figure 2: Catch per trap haul for ventless traps during the month of June for each in all three statistical areas of the Maine coast from 2006-2008.

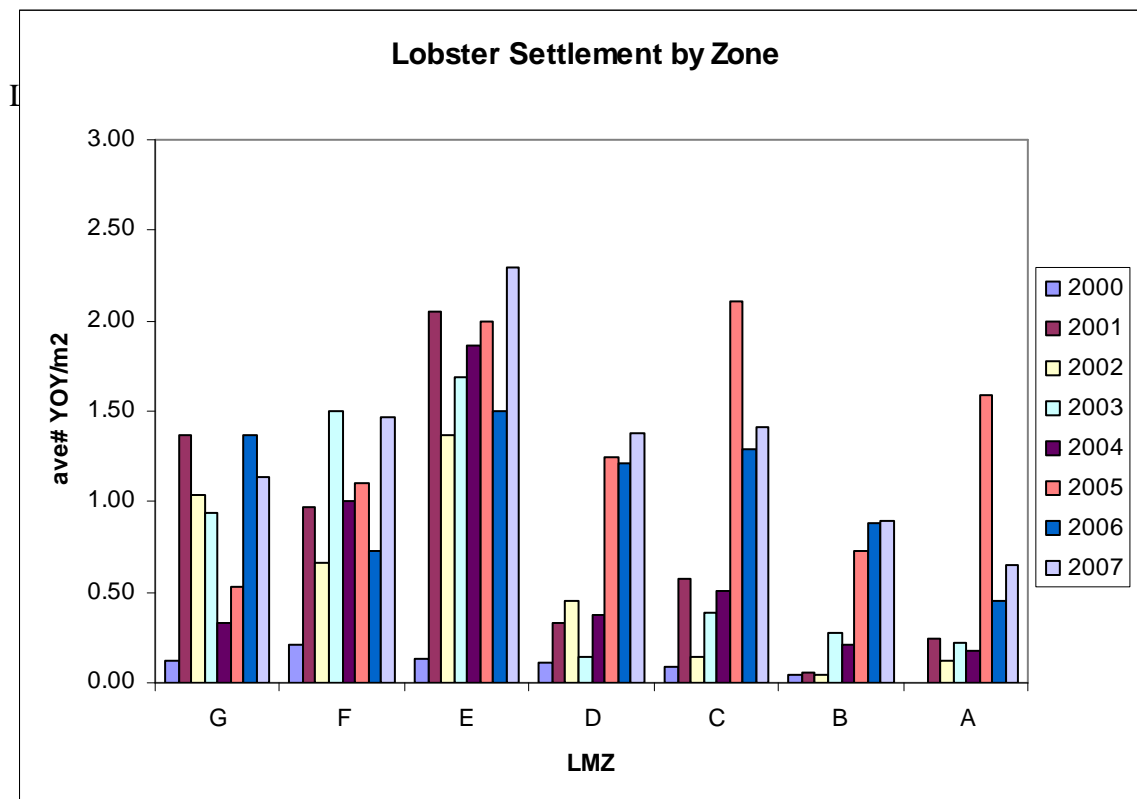
Lobster Science Program (Continued)

Juvenile Lobster Resource Assessment

Researchers from the University of Maine and Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences have identified critical life history phases for lobsters and effective survey methods to monitor them. Using fishery-independent surveys, researchers and the DMR hope to track juvenile populations and generate predictive models of future landings. In 2000 settlement surveys were expanded to 40 fixed sites that cover all seven of Maine's lobster management zones (LMZs A-G), creating a statewide index of settlement.

Lobster post-larvae actively select shelter-providing cobble/boulder habitat early in life. This complex habitat is inaccessible to trawl surveys and lobsters at this stage are too small to be caught by trap. Surveys for newly settled lobsters are conducted on SCUBA by pairs of divers operating suction samplers outfitted with mesh collection bags.

Lobsters in the sample are determined to be young-of-year (YOY) based on their carapace length. A length under 11mm represents lobsters that had settled within the year. Settlement in 2007 for all LMZs was higher than the eight year averages within each zone. LMZs E and D were at record highs for this survey. Sampling is scheduled to begin for this year during the first week in October and run through the end of the month. Call Robert Russell 633-9524 with any questions or comments.



Lobster settlement west to east.

<i>Monitoring Program</i>	<i>DMR Staff</i>	<i>Telephone</i>	<i>Email</i>
	Carl Wilson	633-9538	Carl.Wilson@maine.gov
<i>Port Sampling</i>	Mark Gosselin	633-9562	Mark.Gosselin@maine.gov
<i>Sea Sampling</i>	Kathleen Reardon	633-9404	Kathleen.Reardon@maine.gov
<i>Settlement Survey</i>	Robert Russell	633-9524	Robert.Russell@maine.gov
<i>Ventless Trap</i>	Melissa Smith	633-9527	Melissa.Smith@maine.gov

Lobster Science Program (Continued)

The Maine DMR Lobster Sea Sampling program is in the middle of the 2008 sampling season. The program has placed trained observers onto commercial lobster boats for biological data collection since 1985 with increased coverage to 3 trips per month per zone since 1999. Compiling this data over time enables the DMR to see spatial, temporal and biological trends in the near shore lobster fishery and generally monitor the health of the fishery. This fishery dependent data are used to report on the state of the fishery to management agencies for the stock assessment. Sea sampling data is the only way the DMR can document information on discarded shorts and illegal lobsters and significant resource issues such as v-notching activity, presence of berried females, and shell disease.

On a typical day during the season a sampler can measure over 1500 lobsters. For every lobster that comes aboard the sampler measures specific biological information including: carapace length, sex, cull status, v-notch condition (if present), egg development stage, molt status, and presence of shell disease. This is all done with a voice recorder so that samplers' hands are free to move quickly through the lobsters. A sampler is only an observer and not enforcement so the decision for each lobster close to legal size or with questionable v-notches is made by the captain.

Industry participation and support is critical for the success of the sea sampling program, and we are always looking for more volunteer participants. If you are interested in taking out a sampler on your boat and becoming a listed volunteer, please call Kathleen Reardon at (207) 633-9404 or e-mail Kathleen.Reardon@maine.gov.

Exploring Marine Stewardship Council Certification for Maine's Lobster Fishery

In March 2008, Governor Baldacci appointed a Working Group to explore the concept of having the Maine lobster fishery certified as sustainable by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), an independent nonprofit organization that promotes responsible fishing practices. The Working Group includes:

- John Hathaway, president of Shucks Maine Lobster, Richmond, chair
- Linda Bean, Port Clyde Lobster
- George Lapointe, Commissioner of the Department of Marine Resources
- John Ready, Ready Seafood/Catch a Piece of Maine, Portland
- Elliot Thomas, Yarmouth, member of the Lobster Advisory Council
- David Cousens, Spruce Head, president of the Maine Lobstermen's Association
- Norbert Lemieux of Cutler, Board member of Downeast Lobstermen's Association
- Mike Cote, owner of Looks Gourmet Food Company, Whiting

MSC is as an independent, global organization based in London whose role is to recognize well-managed fisheries and harness consumer preference bearing the MSC label. The Maine lobster brand is known the world over for its quality and high value, and the efforts made by Maine lobstermen to keep the fishery sustainable. Obtaining certification by the Marine Stewardship Council is way to protect and enhance the Maine lobster brand and make sure that Maine lobsters continue to compete in markets around the world.

At this point, the Working Group has completed a pre-assessment, which is available at www.msiforme.org. In October, the Working Group will vote on whether or not to move forward with a full assessment, which will take 12-18 months to complete.

*Lobster Advisory Council Update*

Update from the last Lobster Advisory Council (LAC) meeting – August 27, 2008

After reviewing a trap tag fee budget on whale research from last year that was presented to the Lobster Advisory Council by the Department of Marine Resources the LAC voted to keep the additional ten cent fee increase for the 2009 license year. Habitat monitoring, CTD (Conductivity Temperature Depth Meter) and Plankton Survey are larger scale versions of projects started and no longer funded under National Fish and Wildlife grants (NFWF). D-Tagging is a very small piece of a large grant currently funded under Section 6. Prey and right whale forecasting, laser optical plankton counter and acoustic work are all new elements. We have a grant submitted to Section 6 for some program maintenance costs as well as a humpback and fin whale entanglement scarification rate study but if we don't get it we will need to draw further funding for program costs from the trap tag money. Historically available grants that used to support this program including NMFS/NFWF right whale grants and the NFWF Whale Fund are no longer available. Currently, for whale research Section 6 is the only funding source we can pursue right now.

The Lobster Advisory Council was given updates from meetings held in August by all Zone Council Representatives in regards to the Initial Results of the Lobster Effort Questionnaire. The response to the questionnaire was 35% which is a huge return rate, showing concerns about bait shortages, the lobster assessment and the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan. Some zones wanted to leave things the way they are now while other zones wanted to put a trap tag freeze in place to freeze tags where they are. Commissioner George Lapointe said effort reduction needs to take in all operators. After much discussion the Lobster Advisory Council voted to support the Commissioner to move forward with putting a trap tag freeze in place for one year.

Commissioner George Lapointe announced that beginning with the 2009 license year the Department of Marine Resources will no longer automatically be issuing 10% lobster trap replacement tags.

Commissioner Lapointe reported that the ASMFC will meet August 28th on herring. The quota went from 55,000 mt total allowable catch (TAC) to 45,000 mt this year. The catch rates have been incredibly high and they may consider closing the herring fishery or they may vote to have one day out. The Commissioner said this will have huge impacts on the availability of lobster bait.

Patrice McCarron reported that the Maine Lobstermen's Association has scheduled their "Meet the Candidates Meetings. This is an informal get together that gives the candidates the opportunity to learn about the most pressing issues facing the lobster industry. The year before last when MLA did this they had good turn outs of about 50 people or so; it's a time to get to know the candidates and put in a plug for them to join the Marine Resources Committee.

At the latest Lobster Advisory Council meeting held on October 2nd the Council voted not to move forward with a trap tag freeze but will continue working on effort reduction in the upcoming year.

The next Lobster Advisory Council meeting has not been scheduled.

Lobster Zone Council News

- Zone A: The last Zone A meeting was held at the Washington Academy Library in East Machias on August 26, 2008. The Council discussed the Initial Results of the Lobster Effort Questionnaire. Other agenda items included: Zone Bylaws, the proposed exit ratio, lower limit of licenses and the whale rules. The next Zone A meeting has been scheduled for October 30, 2008 at the University of Maine Machias.
- Zone B: Zone B met at the Mount Desert Elementary School on August 12, 2008. Zone B Council members discussed the results of the limited entry survey results and voted to have a 5:1 ratio with tags. Other agenda items included: The Initial Results of the Lobster Effort Reduction Survey, Zone Bylaws, Lobster Seed Fund and Whale Rules. The next Zone B meeting has been scheduled for November 6, 2008 at the Mt. Desert High School.
- Zone C: The Zone C Council met on October 6, 2008 at the Bucksport High School. The Council discussed and voted (5-4) to close the zone and conduct a limited entry survey to see if Zone C fishermen want limited entry in their zone and if so what ratio. Other agenda items included: New Trap Tag Replacement Policy and an Update on Stricter Penalties Legislation. The Zone C Council members were given an update from the Lobster Advisory Council's vote last week to not move forward with a trap tag freeze but to continue working on effort reduction measures in the upcoming year. The next Zone C meeting has been scheduled for October 28, 2008 at the Bucksport High School.
- Zone D: The Lobster Zone D Council met on October 7, 2008 at the Rockland Ferry Terminal. Agenda items included: Zone Bylaws, Discussion on Stricter Penalties Legislation, New Trap Tag Replacement Policy, MSC Update, Discussion on Time of Day and Lower Limit of Licenses. The next Zone D meeting has been scheduled for November 10, 2008 at the Rockland Ferry Terminal.
- Zone E: The Zone E Council met on August 25, 2008 at the Wiscasset Fire Station. Zone E Council members discussed the results of the limited entry survey results and voted to have a 5:1 ratio with tags. Agenda items included: Discussion of the initial results of Lobster Effort Reduction Questionnaire, Zone Bylaws, Double Tagging, Lobster Seed Fund and Whale Rules. The next Zone E meeting has been scheduled for November 5, 2008 at the Lincoln County Communications Center in Wiscasset.
- Zone F: The Lobster Zone F Council met on October 8, 2008 at the Log Cabin in Yarmouth. Agenda items included: Zone Bylaws, Discussion on Stricter Penalties Legislation, New Trap Tag Replacement Policy, MSC Update and Discussion on Changes in F & G Buffer Zone. The next Zone F meeting has been scheduled for November 3, 2008 at the Community House in Yarmouth.
- Zone G: The Lobster Zone G Council met on August 5, 2008 at Town Center Fire Station in Cape Elizabeth. Agenda items included: Discussion of the initial results of Lobster Effort Reduction Questionnaire, Zone Bylaws, Lower Limit of Licenses and Whale Rules. The next Zone G meeting has been scheduled for October 29, 2008 at the York Fire House.

For more information concerning the meeting dates and/or other issues, please contact your local zone council representative, Donna Hall at the DMR at 624-6567, or the DMR web page at www.maine.gov/dmr.



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF
MARINE RESOURCES
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Augusta, Maine 04333

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Contact Numbers

- DMR (Hallowell)	624-6550	- Marine Patrol Div. I	633-9595
- DMR Lab (Boothbay)	633-9500	(NH border to St. Georges River)	
- DMR Lab (Lamoine)	667-5654	- Marine Patrol Div. II	667-3373
- Sarah Cotnoir	624-6596	(St. Georges River to Canadian border)	
- Donna Hall	624-6567		

DMR - Hallowell
(207) 624-6550

This newsletter is available on the DMR Web Page at:
<http://www.maine.gov/dmr> Click on **Lobster Information**

